

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE DRAWINGS

The drawings have not been accepted by the Examiner in item 10 of the Office Action Summary. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner confirm that the drawings are accepted.

THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. In addition, claim 7 has been amended to delete a recitation.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0131083 ("Inui et al").

Inui et al has a filing date of December 26, 2002, which is after the November 8 and November 27, 2002, priority dates of the

present application (but after the August 27, 2003, priority date which is also claimed in the present application).

Submitted herewith are accurate English translations of JP 2002-324757, JP 2002-324781 and JP 2002-343724 (three of the four applications whose priority is claimed by the present application) to show that the subject matter of the claimed present invention as set forth hereinabove is entitled to the priority dates of November 8, 2002 or November 27, 2002 (which are earlier than the U.S. filing date of Inui et al).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Inui et al was not filed "before the invention" of the claimed present invention, as required by 35 USC 102(e), and it is respectfully requested that Inui et al be withdrawn as a reference against the claimed present invention.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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